



## **United States Mission to the OSCE**

### **Statement in Response to Brigadier General Claudio Sampaolo, Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office**

As delivered by Charge d'Affaires Paul W. Jones  
to the Permanent Council, Vienna  
July 7, 2005

Thank you, Mr. Chairman

We too would like to thank Brigadier General Sampaolo, the Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office for his positive update on the status of the Article IV Agreements.

We are encouraged by the efforts of the parties to "live within the spirit" of the Article IV Agreements through methodical elimination of exempted equipment and reduction in Objects of Inspections and the decrease in the number of passive quotas to an established minimum for each party.

We are also encouraged by the inclusion of Look-Alikes in the Protocol of Existing Types (POET) in the next inspection regime and by the inclusion of all versions of the BTR-50 PK Armored Personnel Carrier Look-Alike in the POET.

Additionally, we are equally pleased that the Minister of Defense for Bosnia and Herzegovina is actively seeking assistance from the international community with respect to the Vienna Document 1999 and the Treaty on Open Skies.

We are also pleased that the Republika Srpska fully complied with the SRCC Decisions to destroy in excess of 100 pieces of exempted armament.

We agree with your assessment that Croatia and Serbia and Montenegro have taken concrete steps in reaffirming their commitments to Article IV and further integration with the Euro-Atlantic community.

Mr. Chairman, these developments constitute concrete evidence that the process is working and, with continued cooperation, will prove to be a successful effort. However, we cannot be content with technical successes alone.

We must strive for a path forward that supports achieving defense reform in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the merging of the three delegations into a single state delegation. We would expect the Bosnian parties to meet this goal in the near future.

With this said, Mr. Chairman, it is clear that much positive work has been accomplished. However, it is equally clear that there is much more to do to comply fully with the Article IV Agreements.

The United States is confident that, with the able assistance of the Personal Representative and his staff and those associated with the prosecution of the Article IV Agreement, the Parties of the sub-region will undoubtedly meet with success.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.